

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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March 10, 2007
PR 07-34

64 Arrested in Largest Shoulder Tap Decoy Operation in California History

ABC, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and 13 other agencies target adults who buy alcohol for minors

(Norwalk) - Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department joined forces with 13 other law enforcement agencies on Saturday, March 10, 2007 in the largest Shoulder Tap Decoy Operation ever assembled in California.

The huge task force operation resulted in 64 arrests. 58 individuals were cited for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors, 6 were arrested for possession of narcotics. The operation was conducted in 14 different cities in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale Bonner.